

Not enough Indians

Lakeland student walkout: too many Chiefs

By NAN WATERS

Last Tuesday morning it was a case of "Too Many Chiefs" (literally) and "Not Enough Indians," at Lakeland Junior-Senior High School, Route 247, Scott Township, as some 40 students attempted a mini-walkout just as classes changed at 9:30 a.m.

Secondary Principal Robert L. Ghigarello told the Carbonate MIRROR that 13 pupils who left the school premises were returned, with the help of Scott Township police, from a nearby residence where they had fled.

These students, the principal added, were given one to three-day suspensions. Six who came in from the school parking lot

without leaving the grounds, were given after-school detention.

Ghigarello noted that the "walkers" were eighth, ninth and tenth grade students who were apparently in sympathy with seniors who were conducting a class meeting in the school auditorium at the same time.

Not locked in

The principal vehemently denied that the auditorium doors were locked while the class meeting was being held. Agitated students, who congregated in the parking area of the school the morning of the walkout, had told this reporter that "Ghigarello has the seniors locked in."

He had met with a senior class committee on Monday in an attempt to iron out five

specific complaints from the Class of '82. The five issues the seniors wished to discuss were provision of an activity room for seniors; use of the outdoor light courts (an unroofed patio area, or kind of atrium) in the center of the sprawling school building during study hall periods; elimination of final examinations for the entire student body; the Saturday detention program; and closing and monitoring of the school's eight lavatories, which preclude student smoking within the restroom (see story in last week's issue of the MIRROR).

In an interview in his office last week, Ghigarello stated that he explained to the seniors that the kitchen storage room previously used for their activity room is now filled with cafeteria equipment for the new

Scott Township Elementary School next door. I told them that as soon as the cafeteria next door opens, we will attempt to clean out the room so that they may use it for ping pong and other activities.

"However, it will be supervised by a teacher at all times," he added that the "kids usually fix it up themselves."

During element weather, the light courts will be open to students during lunch hour, the principal explained, but they cannot be used by anyone during study hall, since that use would not constitute instruction time. Pupils must put in 5 1/2 hours of instruction time daily, he pointed out.

Finals will stay

As for final exams, and Saturday deten-

tion, Ghigarello said, "They're here to stay."

Lavatories are open only in the mornings prior to the 8:20-8:30 a.m. home room period. Students wishing to use the "lavs" during class time must either sign in and out at a teacher-monitored restroom, or visit the main desk for a pass and a key.

Ghigarello told the MIRROR that he had been aware of some grumbling concerning the new disciplinary policies at the school this term, and had "heard a walkout was planned the week before."

As far as providing a smoking room for Lakeland students, the secondary principal replied emphatically that he is against this procedure. Reportedly one large mid-valley high school has provided such facilities for its students who smoke.

As far as faculty members smoking in their own lounge, Ghigarello stated, "These are adults."

Saturday detention policy had also been initiated at Abington Heights schools, but was later rescinded when parents of the Jewish faith complained to school authorities about the policy conflicting with their worship.

Enrollment at the huge Chapman Lake area junior-senior high school is 988 this year, the principal told the MIRROR. This figure is down from last year, when over 1,000 students were enrolled. At the time Lakeland opened its doors several years ago, total enrollment was reported to be over 1,100.

MIRROR sneak preview

City Y will soon open



LEE ANN CERRA, play center director, stands behind new desk in lobby of new YMCA facility which is slated to soon open. See story below. (MIRROR photo by Ros-Al)



TILE FLOOR and concrete block walls of new YMCA gymnasium are seen in this photo. Lee Ann Cerra, play center director, stands in the middle of the new facility. (MIRROR photo by Ros-Al)

The Carbonate YMCA's new physical building is tentatively scheduled to open sometime late in October, Robert Bifano, executive director, told the MIRROR.

The opening of the new building, located behind the present Y building, eliminates many years of fundraising and planning.

The building cost about \$350,000.

At one time the Y had considered constructing a completely new facility on land it bought behind the Ben-Mar Restaurant, but this plan was scrapped because of its cost.

It was estimated that the completely new facility would have cost \$750,000. Oddly, the new building is not connected to the older building.

Y officials explained that this is because state regulations would have forced the Y, if it had connected the two buildings, to bring the older building up

to bureau of labor and industry standards.

This would have cost the Y an additional \$100,000 without even spending any money on any activities.

Junior high court

The main feature of the new building is the junior high school size basketball court (with 54-by-86-foot outside dimensions).

So basketball in the gym will allow two cross-court games at one time or one full-court game.

An exercise room in the new building will be used to house a universal apparatus (a stationary weight-lifting machine), bicycle, treadmill, vibrator belt, and other exercise equipment.

That room will be coeducational at all times.

Coed programs

Until the new building opens, the Y has to continue operating its men's and women's programs at different times.

But that will change once the new building opens.

At that time, new locker facilities in the new building will allow the Y to operate programs for men and women at the same time. The lack of proper locker facilities had prevented this in the old building.

In addition to the lockerrooms, exercise area, and gymnasium, the building will have an office and lobby and two saunas.

The new building, designed by Von Storch and Keim, Clark Summi, will be energy efficient — fully insulated and with windows in the gym and exercise areas for ventilation in the summer.

PP&L believes: no cancer-causing PCB's

A pair of transformers located off Peck Avenue on the city's West Side apparently do not contain the cancer-causing contaminant PCB's, the city learned Friday.

Residents of that neighborhood initially contacted city officials in the spring. They again sought city help about a month ago.

At a regular meeting of council last Monday night, the matter was again brought up.

Hadn't heard

At that time, Martin P. Judge, city managing director, said he had contacted the state's Department of Environmental Resources (DER).

However, he quickly added, he had heard nothing from the department (who are city hall reports on page 3 of this week's Carbon-

dale MIRROR).

The MIRROR then contacted the DER and found that the problem had been turned over to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office in Philadelphia.

Turning to the federal office, the MIRROR spoke with Chris Pilla who said he knew nothing about the local situation. He asked the MIRROR's help in getting more information.

The MIRROR then talked with Judge who immediately contacted the Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. (PP&L) to get a representative to go with him to check out the transformers.

Several hours later Judge told the MIRROR that the electric transformers were inspected by the PP&L representative who told him that he believed that they were the

type which usually are not dangerous.

Within the law

According to the utility spokesman, they are of the type which are well below the 50 parts per million allowed by law and are, therefore, not in violation of EPA standards.

Pilla had also told the MIRROR that transformers are not dangerous if they are drained of their free-flowing liquids. While these transformers are considered PCB contaminated, they, too, are not in violation of EPA laws.

To be on the safe side, however, the city manager has scheduled a meeting with DER officials on Wednesday.

Mayor Mancuso sees tax increase coming

"I don't want to be a podder of gloom," Mayor Fred J. Mancuso told members of the press Friday afternoon after releasing pages of financial figures to the press.

Yet, when asked if all the increase in expenditures he pointed out meant city real estate taxes would have to be increased soon, he replied, "I don't see how we can get around it."

Thus city residents will probably soon be facing a tax increase of seven to 10 mills. The mayor quickly pointed out that his administration will be working hard to minimize that increase. Currently, the real estate tax in the city is set at 34 mills.

"I get tired of paying taxes, too. Just like the next guy," Mayor Mancuso stressed as he broke the news to the press.

The gist of his conference was that his administration has pared city expenses to the bone, but that there are too many factors involved over which the city has no control.

No no-shows

"We have no no-show jobs here. There's no room for free-loaders here in city hall," the mayor said as an example of how close the city is run by his administration.

He explained that the city gets rid of anybody who does not want to do his share of the work.

To back his statement, Mayor Mancuso used financial figures from 1977 and 1981.

On the matter of payroll, he noted that in 1977, \$424,214.12 was used on payroll. The estimated 1981 payroll is \$248,210.75 higher at \$648,424.87.

Some of the payroll is beyond the administration's control, he noted, because of contracts.

One of these is the police contract which

mandates that a minimum of three police officers be on each shift.

Yet, the mayor reported that because of days off, vacations, sick leave — all mandated by the union contract — necessitate the use of special police officers to fill in on those shifts.

For 1981 the use of specials means an additional \$18,000 to \$20,000 in expenditures. But, Mancuso added, that figure is somewhat down from the \$20,000 used in 1980.

400 percent increase

Some other figures the mayor used showed that running the city is "not a small business."

During the press conference the mayor admitted he was using figures because just giving percentages of increases would not truly show the financial differences from year-to-year.

Yet those figures bore out increases of 100 percent, 200 percent, and more.

Blue Cross increased from \$24,319 in 1977 to \$43,000 in 1981 — an increase of 76.66%.

Life insurance increased from \$1,113 in 1977 to \$3,300 in 1981 — an increase of 212.7%.

Union health and welfare increased from \$552 in 1977 to \$2,700 in 1981 — an increase of 390.6%.

Unemployment compensation increased from \$0 in 1977 (the federal government paid it then) to \$19,200 in 1981 — an increase of \$19,200.

Workmen's compensation increased from \$19,971 in 1977 to \$41,000 in 1981 — an increase of 105.2%.

Fire and casualty insurance increased from \$4,500 in 1977 to \$10,000 in 1981 — an increase of 122.2%.

General liability increased from \$12,409 in 1977 to \$18,000 in 1981 — an increase of 44.3%.

Garbage collection per year increased from \$79,400 in 1977 to the \$110,000 in 1981 in the second year of a three-year contract — an increase of 39.1%.

Street lights increased from \$40,000 in 1977 to \$65,000 in 1981 — an increase of 62.5%.

Mayor Mancuso explained that this increase probably wouldn't be so great except that the city recently completed its street lighting modernization program.

That program "doubled the illumination on our streets," the mayor pointed out, adding that residents are "getting a lot more for our money."

City fuel (gas on oil) increased from \$13,900 in 1977 to \$20,000 in 1981 — an increase of 43.9% even after what the mayor termed an "austerity program."

City lights and water city hall, firehouses, and Russell Park increased from \$18,141 in 1977 to \$22,930 in 1981 — an increase of 26.7%.

Telephones increased from \$5,985 in 1977 to \$10,683 in 1981 — an increase of 78.4%.

"All these increases we handled as best as we could," the mayor said.

But the threat of a tax increase could not be denied.

"If we want to keep services at par with what the people expect, it would be better to have small increases yearly," Mancuso said, "rather than sacrifice services or the city's credit."

Please,
drive
carefully!